

Columbia University
in the City of New York

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 17, 1957

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 6, Wis.

Dear Josh:

I have the vague impression that I received a letter from you and lost it. I say this because I remember that you and Esther have received a pair of extraordinary Fulbrights to travel around the world. My hearty congratulations on this wonderful prospect! I hope that I have the chance to talk to you about it before you leave.

Some months ago I received a set of application forms from Elvehjem asking for nominations for WARF assistantships. I immediately remembered an idea I had in Japan regarding an extraordinary bright young man named Yukinori Hirota, who is an assistant in Kikkawa's laboratory. He is the fellow who did the work on Cobalt and F+. I have met him several times and heard him give a seminar in English on his work with strains of varying "sexual" potency. He is quite enthusiastic and imaginative fellow and his mind has the capacity for the clear ordering and expression of myriad complex facts. He is diligent and ingenious in the laboratory and seems to embody the good traits of Japanese scientists and then some.

I have spoken to Kikkawa about sending him to your laboratory (he is perhaps in his early 20's) but the Peck-order in Japan is so rigid that it seemed unlikely that he could leave Japan until several of his seniors had had an opportunity to visit the United States. I argued vigorously that people should go when the opportunity presented itself regardless of rank and Kikkawa was apparently convinced of the wisdom of this suggestion. He has allowed Hirota to fill out an application form and promises to write the necessary recommendations.

In the meanwhile your news about your ~~business~~ ^{absence} next year has arrived but still I hope my efforts are not in vain. Perhaps you would be willing to have this man with you in 1958-59 or can make some other recommendation on his behalf.

I am enclosing Hirota's application form, which you may wish to return to me if you would like me to hold it until all proper documents are assembled here. I will not send

*Please return to
J. Lederberg*

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg

off the forms for recommendation to Kikkawa and Inoki,
nor fill one out myself, until I hear from you.

How is business on behalf of the next Genetics Congress coming? We are very optimistic of possibilities from a variety of sources and have already had \$2,425 pledged by universities and research institutions. In the past, as at the present time, such institutions made contributions directly to the fund. I do not know whether in the past there were also grants made for specific passages but we now have a travel assistance committee, chaired by Professor Manglesdorf, which is arranging for pre- and post-Congress lecture tours, in which event, institutions will pay stipends directly to individual geneticists.

I have yet to find the time to read the recent batch of reprints you sent but look forward to the opportunity. Our own research follows its dull course. We are now concerned with the problem of the possible replication of genetic material in non-dividing cells.

I hope you and Esther have a chance to come East soon when we will see you.

In the meanwhile all best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis".

Francis J. Ryan

FJR:ls